



Newsletter & Budget Information

May 2022, Page 1

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Vote Date Details

What will I be voting on?

Budget: \$15,030,670
Bonding of Transportation Vehicles

When and where is the vote?

Tuesday, May 17, 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Alexandria Central School
Room 260

Who is eligible to vote?

American citizens at least 18 years of age who have lived in the district at least 30 days prior to the vote.

Do I need to pre-register to vote?

No, pre-registration is not required.

How do I vote by absentee ballot?

Obtain an application on the district website or by calling 315-482-9971. The application must be returned by May 10 if the absentee ballot will be sent by mail. Or the application must be returned by May 16 if the voter will pick it up at ACS. Absentee ballots must be returned no later than 5:00 pm on May 17, 2022.

Alexandria Central School District Residents will vote on a \$15,030,670 budget proposal for the 2022-2023 school year on Tuesday, May 17 from 9 am to 8 pm in Room 260. It will be clearly marked where to enter the building. Voters will also select two candidates on the ACS Board of Education and consider an additional proposition: a proposition for bonding student transportation vehicles as part of the District routine fleet replacement.

This year, the New York State Legislature committed to fully funding school district foundation aid over a three year period. By fully funding foundation aid specifically, school districts that have experienced changes in their property values, incomes, or student needs saw large state aid windfalls. By NYSED calculations, however, the Alexandria District saw increases in property values which overshadowed local incomes and changes in student need. Therefore, foundation aid for ACS increased at the lowest level allowable. Overall, the District received just one half of one percent increase in overall state aid. That equates to an increase of just \$26,235 year over year.

The ACS Board of Education has worked throughout the school year, analyzing expenditures and anticipated revenues. This year, in fact, the district has entered into two cost-savings agreements with Hammond CSD, generating over \$100,000 for our district. Cost increases for the 2022-2023 fiscal year are attributed to contractual salary and health care increases, retiree costs, and inflationary pressure. The district has consistently been mindful of the impact budget increases have on taxpayers, particularly in the current economic climate. As a result, the district has proposed a tax levy increase of 3.90%. Next year, this would mean an estimated \$50 increase in the school tax bill for a property assessed at \$100,000.

2022-2023 Capital Outlay

Each year ACS budgets for a capital outlay project. These projects can be no more than \$100,000 in total and must go through a New York State Education Department (NYSED) approval process, including a public bidding process. In the past few years, the district has used the capital outlay to replace exterior doors, replace our aging maintenance shed, and to update plumbing. For the 2022-2023 academic year, the district will build into the regular budget a capital outlay project that focuses on the girl's locker room. Since the district will be focusing on a larger project, replacing our gymnasium, this capital outlay will help to modernize some aspects of the girl's locker room. The general focus will be placed on renovating the existing bathroom, adding two private shower stalls, updating flooring, plumbing, and fixtures.





Budget Q & A

Propositions

#1: 2022-23 School Budget

Proposed Budget: \$15,030,670
 Budget Change: 5.62%
 Tax Levy Increase: \$306,514
 +3.90%

Budget Vote:

Tues., May 17, 2022
 9AM – 8PM
 Alexandria Central
 ROOM 260

#2: Bonding Three Student Transportation Vehicles

Voters will consider a proposition for the purchase of three student transportation vehicles.

If Proposition #2 is approved, the district will borrow up to \$315,000 to purchase two 66-passenger buses and a school vehicle. This purchase is eligible for approximately \$157,500 in state aid, which is about half of the purchase price. This cost is included in the debt service calculation for the 2022/2023 school year, so it does not increase the proposed budget.

These purchases are part of an on-going effort to maintain a bus fleet under five years old with less than 100,000 miles each. This helps maintain safety while providing coverage under a five-year warranty and preserving resale value.

What is a “tax levy limit” and is ACS below its limit?

The tax levy is the highest allowable tax levy a school district can propose for which only the approval of a simple majority of voters (50% plus one) is required. The limit is calculated using a multi-step formula that takes into account any allowable exclusions (such as pension costs and capital expenditures). Any proposed tax levy above this limit requires budget approval by a super majority of voters (60%). The ACS Board of Education has proposed a budget that includes a tax levy BELOW its limit. For the 2022-23 fiscal year, the ACS tax cap limit was 3.95%.

How is the tax levy different from a tax rate?

The tax levy is the amount of money the district raises from local taxpayers while the tax rate is the amount of tax residents pay per \$1,000 of property value. In 2022/23 the school tax levy would increase by 3.90%. The impact on school tax bills is projected to be an approximate \$50 next year for a property assessed at \$100,000.

With the tax levy limit, does the public still vote on a school budget?

Yes, residents will still vote on a proposed school budget on May 17.

What happens if the budget is defeated?

If the proposed budget is defeated in May, the ACS Board of Education can put another budget – revised or not up for a vote in June or immediately adopt a contingency budget. If the budget is defeated twice, ACS would have to adopt a contingency budget, with a zero percent tax levy increase, which could mean an additional \$262,900 in reductions to programs and services.

Under contingency, there would be \$262,900 worth of reductions in programs and capital components

If the proposed budget is defeated by voters, the ACS Board of Education, as in the past, will have the option of putting the same or a revised budget up for a revote, or adopting a contingency budget. If voters reject the budget twice, the district must adopt a contingent budget.

More significantly, under the law, if ACS adopts a contingency budget, the district would have to keep the 2022/23 tax levy the same as or less than the 2021/22 tax levy; in effect a 0 percent tax levy increase. In other words, the district would have to levy the same amount of taxes as in 2021/22 -or less -without any adjustments for contractual obligations or other costs, whether or not they are mandated. Adopting a contingency budget would prohibit ACS from spending any money in certain areas, including community use of school facilities (unless all costs are reimbursed to the district); new equipment purchases; non-essential maintenance; capital expenditures (except in emergencies); salary increases for non-instructional, non-unionized employees; and certain field trips and student supplies. Contingency rules also cap the growth of the administrative component of the budget.

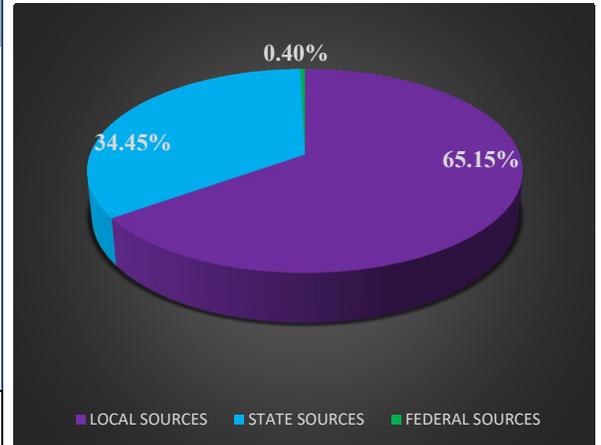




Budget Charts

Where does the money come from?

	Approved 2021/22	Proposed 2022/23	Percent Change
State Aid	\$ 5,151,796	\$ 5,178,031	0.51%
Federal Aid	\$ -	\$ 60,800	
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 1,025,000	\$ 1,350,000	31.71%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 85,000	\$ 176,000	107.06%
Property Tax	\$ 7,859,325	\$ 8,165,839	3.90%
Reserve Funds	\$ 110,065	\$ 100,000	-9.14%
Total Revenue	\$ 14,231,186	\$ 15,030,670	



10 Year Historic Tax Levy Increases



INSTRUCTION: 41% of proposed budget

	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>
Teaching, Regular School	\$ 2,917,159	\$ 3,070,612
Special Education	\$ 1,320,396	\$ 1,360,621
Occupational Education	\$ 420,685	\$ 412,732
Staff Development	\$ 106,404	\$ 136,213
Teaching, Administration	\$ 269,048	\$ 298,466
Library	\$ 85,856	\$ 99,396
Technology	\$ 271,143	\$ 260,197
Guidance	\$ 177,575	\$ 171,956
Health Services	\$ 83,396	\$ 76,455
Psychological Services	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000
Co-Curricular Activities	\$ 53,000	\$ 63,200
Athletics	\$ 232,727	\$ 181,016
Total	\$ • 6,015,389	\$ 6,208,864
Percent Change		3.22%

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: 26% of proposed budget

	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>
Employees' Retirement	\$ 256,218	\$ 281,010
Teachers' Retirement	\$ 438,708	\$ 490,591
Social Security	\$ 449,596	\$ 482,229
Workers' Compensation	\$ 71,886	\$ 71,426
Unemployment	\$ 11,200	\$ 11,200
Health Insurance	\$ 2,403,381	\$ 2,459,383
Other Benefits	\$ 93,891	\$ 110,276
Total	\$ 3,724,880	\$ 3,906,115
Percent Change		4.87%

OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE: 9% of proposed budget

	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>
Custodial Services	\$ 496,803	\$ 670,340
Maintenance	\$ 639,786	\$ 650,082
Total	\$ 1,136,589	\$ 1,320,422
Percent Change		16.17%

Where does the \$15,030,670 go?

TRANSPORTATION: 9% of proposed budget

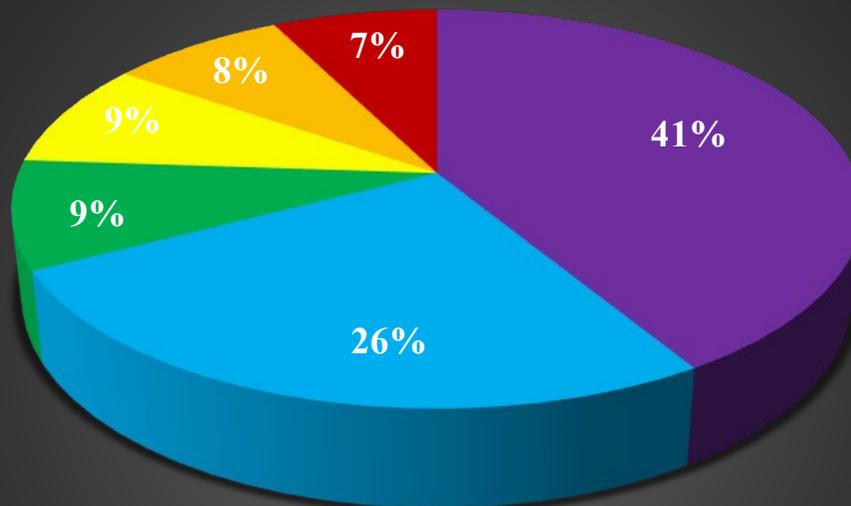
	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>
Transportation	\$ 1,096,250	\$ 1,130,453
Garage	\$ 125,550	\$ 152,250
Total	\$ 1,221,800	\$ 1,282,703
Percent Change		4.98%

DEBT SERVICE: 8% of proposed budget

	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>
Construction	\$ 722,288	\$ 784,838
Buses	\$ 108,756	\$ 171,574
Energy Perf. Contract	\$ 80,020	\$ 20,006
Interfund Transfer	\$ 190,000	\$ 215,000
Total	\$ 1,101,064	\$ 1,191,418
Percent Change		8.21%

DISTRICT SUPPORT: 7% of proposed budget

	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>
Board of Education	\$ 21,130	\$ 26,221
Central Administration	\$ 213,064	\$ 225,760
Business Administration	\$ 224,503	\$ 199,045
Auditing	\$ 17,600	\$ 20,000
Tax Collection	\$ 8,900	\$ 8,900
Legal / Fiscal Services	\$ 55,344	\$ 69,112
School Security	\$ -	\$ 51,600
Central Services	\$ 306,808	\$ 326,651
Insurance / Special Items	\$ 76,100	\$ 77,200
BoCES Administration / Capital	\$ 108,015	\$ 116,659
Total	\$ 1,031,464	\$ 1,121,148
Percent Change		8.69%



■ INSTRUCTION
 ■ EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
 ■ OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE
■ TRANSPORTATION
 ■ DEBT SERVICE / TRANSFERS
 ■ DISTRICT SUPPORT

School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2021-22 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2022-23 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2022-23 School Year *										
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 14,231,186	\$15,030,670	\$14,767,770										
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$ 799,484	\$ 536,584										
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		5.62 %	3.77 %										
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.7%											
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 7,859,325	\$ 8,165,839											
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$	\$											
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$	\$											
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$	\$											
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 7,859,325	\$ 8,165,839	\$ 7,859,325										
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 367,888	\$ 495,178											
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 7,547,300	\$ 7,674,935											
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$ 7,491,437	\$ 7,670,661											
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 55,863	\$ 4,274											
Administrative Component	\$ 1,542,356	\$ 1,613,495	\$ 1,612,795										
Program Component	\$10,263,367	\$10,736,349	\$10,662,149										
Capital Component	\$ 2,425,463	\$ 2,680,826	\$ 2,492,826										
<p>A contingency budget would require a \$262,900 reduction in expenditures. This figure includes purchases of equipment, carpeting, furniture, and a capital outlay project.</p>													
<p>** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;">Description</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bus Bond Proposition</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 315,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Description	Amount	Bus Bond Proposition	\$ 315,000		\$		\$		\$	
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	\$												
	\$												
	\$												

***NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS:** Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed
for the 2022-23 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$ 327

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Alexandria Central School District, Jefferson County, New York, will be held at Alexandria Central School in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 between the hours of 9:00am and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the Alexandria Central School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



Board Of Education Candidates

May 2022, Page 6

About the BOE

On Tuesday, May 17, voters will vote for candidates for 2 open seats on the Alexandria Central School District Board of Education.

Candidates are: Jane Aikins (current incumbent), Suzanne Hunter (current incumbent), and Eric Heath.

The school board is made up of seven non-paid citizens elected to serve overlapping terms of three years each. Together they establish district policies, develop an annual budget proposal, approve or disapprove the superintendent's recommendations on personnel matters and contracts and act as a communication link between residents and the superintendent.



Alexandria Central School
34 Bolton Avenue
Alexandria Bay, NY 13607
Phone: 315-482-9971
Fax: 315-482-9973



Jane Aikins

Occupation: Retired....Full-time parent

Family: Husband, Larry; Six children – four adopted and two homemade, Christi (Byron), Dana, Megan (Badour), Tisha (Heffron), Jadon, Jordann.

Community Service: Alexandria Central Board Of Education (15+ years), Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counsel board member (5 years), Watertown's Downtown Business Association board member (8 years), a teacher with Child Evangelism Fellowship for eleven years, River Church Deaconess (2 years). Foster parent to forty-seven children.

Why serve on the Board of Education? As a parent, grandparent and community member I feel both a responsibility and duty to be an active part of creating an educational environment to improve student achievement. Being a taxpayer also demands fiscal responsibility while meeting state mandates and expanding wonderful opportunities for our students, but first and foremost is the educational and emotional recovery from the COVID pandemic.

What are the top issues facing our schools? In today's changing culture, keeping abreast of educational requirements, providing a safe and healthy learning environment, and involving parents in student learning while maintaining a strong dedicated and supported staff are key issues for every school board.

What would you like people to know about you? I was born and raised in Central New York, a small community much like ours here, Mt. Upton, New York. I earned my cosmetology license and practiced in the Norwich area until my marriage to my husband Larry. After which time I move to Madison County and opened and operated two salons. I continued my education through Syracuse University in child management. I then worked for several years for an educational company. After the passing of my parents, we moved to Alexandria Bay to be near my brother, Glen Gould. Being near family has been vital to us. I worked at several resorts as the Director of Sales, and worked eight years for the greater Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce as the Membership Development Director. I have been retired for eight years. During that time, I have been blessed with the care of grandchildren, primarily Kaliber and Evelyn.

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Alexandria Central School

Home of the Purple Ghosts



Eric Heath

Occupation: Elementary Teacher

Family: Bethany Heath (Wife), Molly Heath (Daughter), Benjamin Heath (Son)

Community Service:

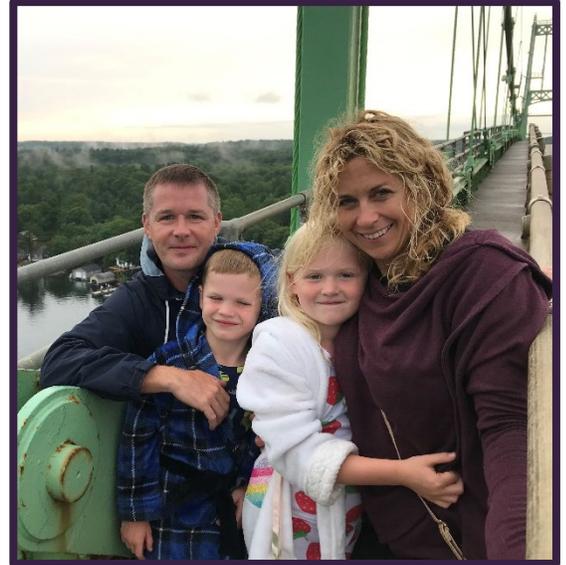
- TI Youth Hockey Coach (6u + 8u)
- Alexandria Youth Commission Tennis Coach
- Lyme Youth Golf Clinic

Why serve on the Board of Education? In order to be a part of a team that makes important decisions that will best prepare the students at ACS for their futures.

What are the top issues facing our schools?

- Lack of participation in sports and extra-curricular activities
- Literacy
- College and career readiness

What would you like the people to know about you? I am committed to the community and strive to help better all that live here. I'm passionate about providing the best opportunities for our youth including academic, athletic, and social experiences.



Suzanne Hunter

Occupation: Retired teacher

Family: Husband: Alan; Children: Michael, Ann Marie (Hyde), Megan (Klosner), Todd, and E.J.

Community Service: Alexandria Central Board of Education (9 years); Alexandria Community Thrift Store volunteer and Board member (16 years); Catholic Community of Alexandria Parish Council member.

Why serve on the Board of Education? As a retired teacher, business (farm) owner, senior citizen, and grandparent with 3 grandchildren currently attending ACS, I feel I bring a diverse understanding of the many needs and concerns facing a School Board. I consider it an honor to serve on the Board in order to help provide our children of the community with the best educational opportunities.



What are the top issues facing our schools? Having greatly struggled with effects the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the educational process, schools today face so many challenges trying to resume to normalcy especially getting all students back on track to attain their educational goals. With today's economy being impacted so with skyrocketing inflation rates, balancing the needs of the district with a sound sensible budget is another top issue. Also, the recruitment and retention of qualified and dedicated teachers and support staff is of paramount importance.

What would you like people to know about you? I was born and raised in Rochester and moved to Alexandria Bay right out of college to begin my teaching career as a Speech Therapist. It was here that I met and married Alan, a lifetime resident of Plessis. After five years of teaching, I "retired" to be a stay at home mom and farm wife for several years. I then went back to school and received my Master's degree in elementary education and returned to teaching. I taught for another 20 years as an elementary teacher at LaFargeville Central School. Currently, my husband and I own and operate Hunter's Plessis Farm.

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ACS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS



Mrs. Morgia • September 2021 – April 2022

A MESSAGE FROM

Greetings,

The elementary school is having a wonderful school year. While we worked hard to stay safe and healthy, we were still able to enjoy the holidays, after school activities, sports, and enrichment programs. Our students continue to work hard learning new skills both academically and socially. They never cease to amaze me with their resiliency, strength, kindness, and courage. Throughout the school year they have learned and been awarded for displaying the characteristics of Purple Pride (Positivity, Responsibility, Integrity, Dignity, and Empathy). We are so happy to acknowledge them each month!

One of my favorite ways to start the day is being able to greet each student walking into the building. I truly enjoy seeing their sweet faces, smiles, and hearing their many stories. Rain or shine, snow or ice, warm or cold, many staff can be seen greeting our students as they make their way to the building to start their day. These moments allow us to provide a positive interaction to begin their school day.

MRS. MORGIA

With the restrictions of the pandemic, our district moved to three grade level classrooms which created smaller class sizes, additional instructional time, and small group support. With our literacy initiatives our staff has been trained on the "Science of Reading." This training and mindset has given us a new perspective on teaching literacy. Our students have received additional literacy time, been exposed to an increased amount of tier 1 vocabulary and non-fiction text, and received tiered interventions to meet individual needs. Our school counselors are also pushing into classrooms to provide knowledge and teach skills to make healthy choices, manage emotions, show empathy, and build positive relationships.

When I am in classrooms, the hallway, or outside, I witness the growth our students make during a calendar year. It warms my heart to think about what they will accomplish as they move through each grade. I believe we are working hard to build responsible, empathetic, and positive students.

- Mrs. Morgia



Other Exciting Highlights

2021 – 2022 school Year



READ ACROSS AMERICA

Alexandria Elementary is using the month of March to promote reading. For Dr. Seuss' Birthday, ACS celebrated by sharing stories and eating Dr. Seuss themed cupcakes. To promote 'Read Across America,' the Watertown Wolves hockey players read in each of the Elementary classrooms. Each day during the month of March, Mrs. Haddock, our school librarian, drew names of students who were caught reading. Parents, teachers, and caregivers sent pictures of ACS students reading. Over 150 students were caught reading in the month of March!

A YEAR IN A GLANCE

Our students learned how to make homemade apple cider with Mr. Company and Mrs. Haddock.

The elementary students enjoyed classroom Halloween parties and a parade for families.

Students learned about dinner etiquette and shared stories of gratitude during our traditional Thanksgiving feast.

Students participated in a Christmas spirit week and then enjoyed a Polar Express celebration.

Our staff recognized students each month for demonstrating characteristics of Purple Pride.

We had two sessions of Ghost Academy, our afterschool program that included over 100 students.

This school year we introduced elementary cooking classes with Ms. Crystal.

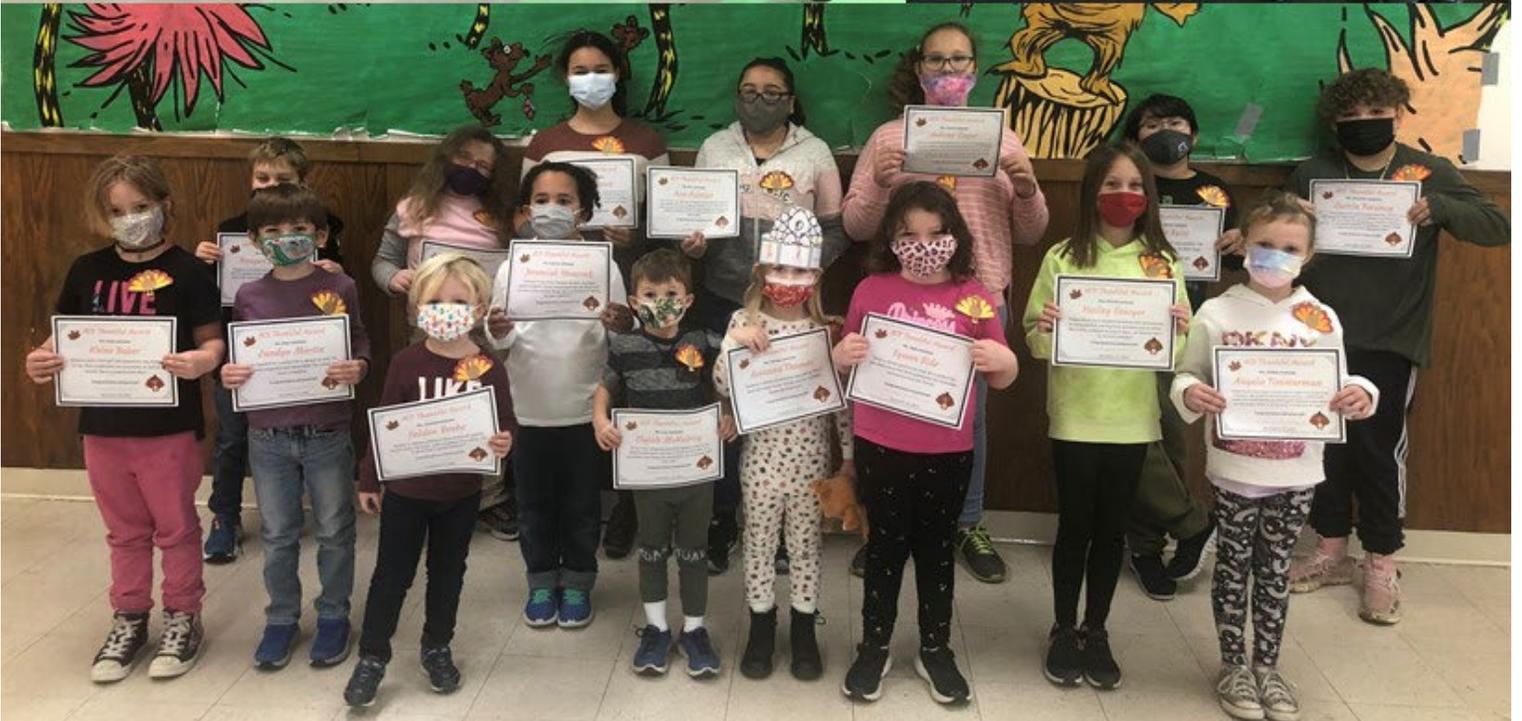
Students were able to participate in a Friday Learn to Skate Program.

And some of our youngest hockey players enjoyed learning from the Watertown Wolves hockey team every Wednesday.

"Bridge the Gap" Summer School

This summer, we will be offering a summer school program that will provide students with additional academic instruction focused on individual student needs beyond the regular school year. In an effort to help students and parents reduce "summer loss in learning," Alexandria has created a summer program for students entering Kindergarten through 6th grade in the 2022-2023 school year. The goal of the program is for students to increase their mastery of grade-level skills and standards.











Alexandria Central School

Home of the Purple Ghosts



From the Desk of Mr. Fountain

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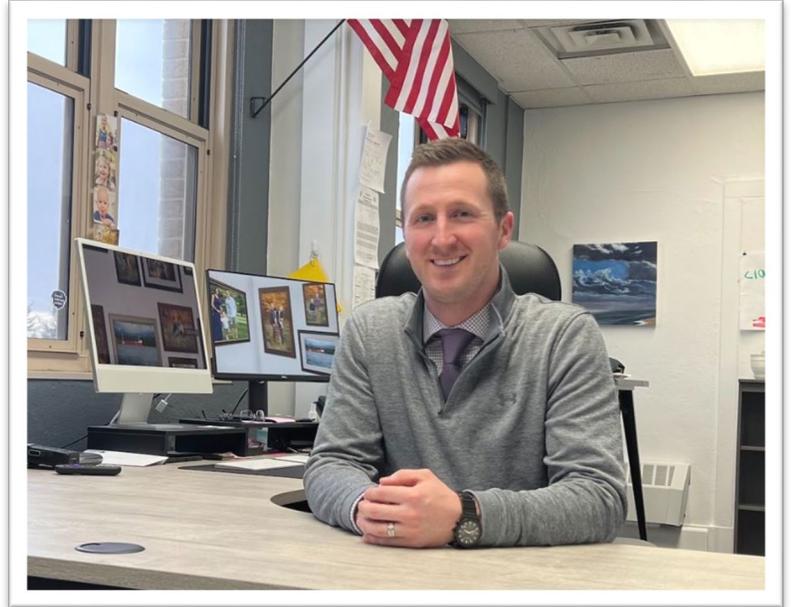
Hello and happy Spring Alexandria Central School community. It is with great excitement that together we welcome warmer weather and longer days to spend time with our families. Our Secondary School students in grades 7-12 have enjoyed transitioning back to some semblance of normalcy throughout the 2021-22 school year. It was so refreshing and exciting to be able to see all of their smiles for the first time back in March! We are mindful of the academic, social, and emotional impacts this pandemic has had on all of us as we continue to strive forward, support, engage, and encourage all of our children each day that they are in our building. Our silver lining is that, what we have endured throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, has made us stronger, more resilient, and more grateful for our time in the classroom with friends and faculty.

We have been full-steam ahead throughout this year in seeking safe, creative, and impactful ways to offer our students as many academic and extracurricular opportunities as absolutely possible. Students have embraced these opportunities and made us incredibly proud each day, ranging from our Senior Spotlights each month, to inducting several new members to our National Junior Honor Society earlier this year. It has been a pleasure each month recognizing students 7-12th grade with our Student of the Month Awards this year. Students have received praise and recognition for a multitude of reasons, including academic excellence and exemplary character. In a UPK-12 grade building, I share with students frequently how significant an impact they have on the lives of our littlest learners, that they are always being looked up to and that it is a responsibility not to be taken lightly.

Throughout this school year, students have embraced opportunities to tour the Bohlen Technical Center as they consider careers and technical education. We have observed tremendous success from those enrolled in these programs this school year. We are confident that they will be prepared for employment or higher education within their varied fields of study.

Students have had the opportunity through our guidance department to participate in a variety of aptitude and career interest tests. Students have toured multiple State and Private colleges alike throughout this year, and we anticipate a great number of our students pursuing post-secondary education this fall. Many parents/ guardians have been involved in the scheduling process for next year as we continue to bolster our course offerings, electives, and college classes through SUNY Jefferson, SUNY Canton, and Syracuse University. We appreciate your interest and involvement in the planning of your child's future in partnership with our guidance department.

We continue to seek engaging and educational programming for our students from outside agencies and within our own local community. Students attended DrumMatix at the Clayton Opera House, received Internet Safety and Cyber Security training from NYS trooper- Brian Derochie, learned about the challenges of overcoming mental illness through renowned public speaker-John James, heard the empowering message of Marc Mero regarding positive life choices, how to dream big, and how to become the champions they are destined to be. Our students participated in research studies with Save the River,



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Alexandria Central School

Home of the Purple Ghosts



visited the Everson Museum of Art, performed their first live in-person musical since 2019, participated in FFA Winter camp at Camp Oswegatchie, and every fall and winter Varsity Sports team at ACS earned the NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete Team Award.

We have a great deal to be proud of here within the Secondary School at Alexandria Central. The list of academic, social, and extracurricular activities our students have been involved with is quite long, and one we'll continue to build on together. Faculty, staff, and the administrative team thank you for your continued partnership and support at home.

The time and attention you share with your children are so valuable in helping them unwind from a full day at school. I encourage all of you to take some time each night to unplug, get some fresh air together, take a walk, ride a bike, plant some flowers; whatever brings you happiness.

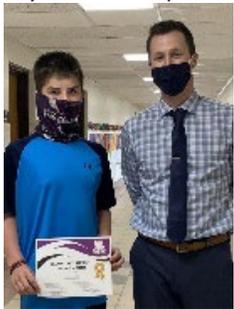
Thank you Alexandria Central School community for a wonderful year already. With excitement, I look forward to the celebrations of achievement that the end of the school year has in store for all of us UPK through twelfth grade!

All my best,

Robert Fountain
Secondary Principal

Secondary Students of the Month

We began a new tradition this year, by awarding the "Secondary Students of the Month." This distinguished teacher-nominated award recognizes our nominees' strong moral character, positive behavior, and or academic achievement. We are all very proud of your accomplishments.



7th Grade:
Micah Weldon



8th Grade:
Nina Peguerra



9th Grade:
Cecil Velez



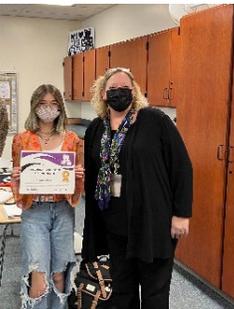
10th Grade:
Erik Croll



11th Grade:
Gabrielle Williams



12th Grade:
Brock Hunter



7th Grade:
Kamryn Beers



8th Grade:
Callie Dishon



9th Grade:
Mia Davis



10th Grade:
Drew Hunneyman



11th Grade:
Colin Hynes



12th Grade:
Michael Langridge

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Alexandria Central School

Home of the Purple Ghosts



7th Grade:
Rosaleigh Parker



8th Grade:
Madilyn Jimenez



9th Grade:
Grace Davidson



10th Grade:
Olivia Adsit



11th Grade:
Trinity Duprey



12th Grade:
Alex Fansler



7th Grade:
Kathryn Papin



8th Grade:
William Weldon



9th Grade:
Mason Savage



10th Grade:
Remington Savage



11th Grade:
Cassandra VanBrocklin



12th Grade:
Jakob Lynch



7th Grade:
Kaila Orvis



8th Grade:
Harlee Bendle



9th Grade:
Ella Porter



10th Grade:
Ciara "CC" Dawley



11th Grade:
Atlas Hyde



12th Grade: Emma Graveline

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A Note from the Cafeteria

May 2022, Page 16

We have been doing big things in the cafeteria this year and have so many new and exciting changes. It is with pride that we can say we are no longer serving any processed foods. In addition to the main entrées, the cafeteria now offers homemade desserts and soups that the students really enjoy. Our chicken, beef, and pork are all locally purchased and prepared in house for a home-cooked taste.

Some of our cafeteria staff, Board of Education members, and our Superintendent, Mr. Clapper, had the opportunity to participate in the Fire & Ice Event at the Harbor Hotel in February. We were very proud of our team and our homemade soups that were prepared and distributed for sampling at the event. We are the only school that has ever had a display at Fire and Ice. There was a lot of positive feedback from attendees on how we are feeding our ACS students, and some even made the point to say that the food was restaurant quality.

The Cafeteria has offered cooking classes for some of our elementary students. The classes have been very fun and a very good experience for all those who were able to participate. Be on the look-out for more classes in the future.

A suggestion box has been placed in the high school cafeteria so students may submit ideas that they would like to see on the menu. Also, in an effort to reduce the use of plastics, the cafeteria is now using all compostable and biodegradable cutlery & packaging.

As always, our breakfast and lunches are free to all students.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email aremington@acsghosts.org or call 315-482-9971 Ext. 9.





Odyssey of the Mind

Since the 1970s, Alexandria Central has had a rich history of competition in the Odyssey of the Mind tournament. The creative minds of our students have been nurtured, encouraged, and challenged throughout the years and this year's team is no exception. Coached by Teri Lowe and Michele Walton, this year's Odyssey team was composed of seven team members; 7th graders Michaela Adsit, Meera Aguayo, and Micah Weldon, 6th graders Jasper Brennan and Kendall Walton, and 5th graders Caroline Carr and Mary Weldon. Each members' creativity and problem-solving skills helped them shine as they collaborated to solve a problem which required an original solution.



Starting in November, the students read through five different problems and selected the one they would like to solve. During their planning sessions, the ACS team shared ideas, tried different solutions, and then tried again when things didn't work the first, second, or third time! Having selected the theatrical problem, the team wrote their own skit to present their solution, created their own costumes, and designed and built their own set and props staying within the time limit, solution guidelines and budget set by the Odyssey of the Mind program as they prepared to present their solution to a panel of judges. They also practiced how to answer a spontaneous problem which is also part of the competition that they creatively answer within a time frame. Due to COVID, their regional competition, usually held in Watertown, was changed to a virtual format. They recorded their solution and were awarded first place in their division on the regional level which advanced them to the State level.

On Saturday, March 26, the team and coaches traveled to the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse and competed against 15 other teams from across the state. With one team member out of town, the team cleverly reworked

their skit to accommodate their missing member. Their hard work, dedication, and inspiration was evident in their teamwork both in and out of the competition. They represented Alexandria Central with pride as they were awarded seventh place in the state in their division. Congratulations to Coaches Lowe and Walton and the team on your achievement!





National Junior Honor Society

The Sage Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society at Alexandria Central School inducted new members and honored 15 current ninth grade members at the NJHS Induction Ceremony. In lieu of a traditional induction ceremony, our NJHS students worked hard to create a virtual video induction. Ella Porter, freshman member of the NJHS, was the emcee of our video event.

Returning Members:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Rylynn Bain | Connor Felder |
| Madyson Booth | Brady Hyde |
| Brayton Bradley | Jasmine Langride |
| Paityn Bridenbaker | Tarryn Pitts |
| River Costello | Ella Porter |
| Sincerity Diange | Mason Savage |
| Hailey Fadden | Gavan Sourwine |
| | Cecil Velez |

New Members:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Callie Dishon | Nina Peguerra |
| Abigail Edgar | Lanie Phelps |
| Madilyn Jimenez | Mavery Weaver |
| Aidan McAloon | William Weldon |
| Brody McCauley | Mia Davis |
| Theron McCauley | Sierra Fasshauer |
| Michael McClora | Evan Sanford |

Please enjoy our video event at <https://youtu.be/VBSPZpVy4-A>

National Honor Society

The Senior National Honor Society continues its commitment to honoring all ACS seniors who are accepted to college and the letters are beginning to arrive! As letters continue to flow in, students are asked to submit copies to Mrs. Aubertine for the hall display and for recognition on morning announcements.

So far, we congratulate: Jack Bridenbaker; SUNY Oswego, Jakob Lynch; University of Nebraska, Tompkins Cortland Community College, Allegheny College, Anna Maria College, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Genessee Community College, Ashlee Ferency; SUNY Oswego, Syracuse University, Nazareth College, Emalee White; SUNY Potsdam, Alfred University, SUNY Plattsburgh, Emily Sutton; SUNY Oswego, Tylea Baltz; Wells College, SUNY Jefferson, Xandyr Brennan; Neumont College of Computer Science, and Andrea Patterson; Florida Institute of Technology, SUNY Brockport.





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Spelling Bee

On Tuesday, February 15th, twenty-four top notch spellers competed for a chance to win the 2022 Alexandria Central School Spelling Bee. David Williams (right), a sixth grader, placed third. Alexandra Burkett (left), a seventh grader, placed second. Theron McCauley (center) placed first and had the opportunity to compete in the regional spelling bee held at General Brown Central School on March 3, 2022. Congratulations to all who participated!



Oratorical Contest



Congratulations to Junior, Kayden Anderson. Kayden earned 2nd place at the Zone Level of the American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest on January 29th at the Homer American Legion. Kayden went through three rounds of competition to get to the Zone Level. Congratulations Kayden for all of your hard work and determination in earning this honor. We are proud of your accomplishment and wish you the best in the future as you continue to pursue your goals!

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Library Updates

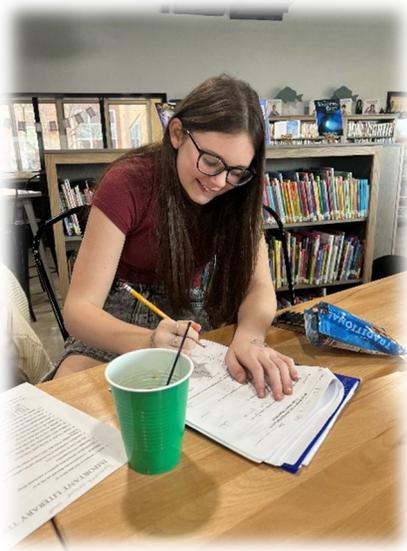
As many of you know, the library remodel has allowed ACS to offer many new activities in the library. All students in grades K- 4 come to the library on a rotational basis for Literacy Block. During this time students do a variety of activities such as board games, Wheel of Literacy Block, pick out library books, and read in comfy spaces. Many of the 5th and 6th graders enjoy coming to the library during recess to use the Creation Station or the Collaboration Studio to work on projects. The 7-12 students enjoy coming to the library to create, do homework, work on the community puzzle, read, and socialize with each other. One of the highlights in the library for the 9th-12th grade students is the Bay Café. This is for students who maintain an 85% average, and a 90% attendance rate. After school the library is being used to host community oil painting classes, board games and more, meetings, and other group events. I have truly enjoyed all the help I have received from teachers, parents and caregivers catching students reading. It has been a great success. The library has given away over 100 books to students who were “caught reading”.





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Addams Family Musical

May 2022, Page 22

How great was it to have our first LIVE musical on the stage in 3 years?! Pretty great! Congrats to the cast and crew of The Addams Family Musical! A special shout-out to my seniors in the show - Madison Savage (as Morticia), Andrea Patterson (as Wednesday), Tzu-Yi "Eddie" Yang (as Gomez), Xandyr Brennan (as Fester) and Emmalee White (as Grandma Addams)! We are so proud of you!!! Thank you to our seniors on crew, as well- Michael Langridge, Alex Fansler, & Jack Bridenbaker! Couldn't have done it without you all! Props to our remaining lead cast- Olivia Adsit (as Alice), Elijah McIlrath (as Mal), Ethan Scott (as Lucas), Drew Hunneyman (as Lurch), and Kaitlyn White (as Pugsley)!! Many thanks to Alice Pryor, Gabs Hoffberg, & Ethan Brennan on crew, and to all the parents, families, faculty, & custodial staff for all of their help in all that it takes to put together and successfully present a show as stellar as this one! I could not be more proud!! ~ Mrs. Taylor





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Alexandria Bay FFA and Ag Program

The FFA and Agriculture Program has been very busy this year. In April, several FFA students were able to attend the first live FFA conference since 2019. In March, 24 FFA students traveled to the Oswegatchie Educational Center for our first overnight Winter Weekend since 2019. In February, our students competed at the District 6 FFA Leadership Development Event at JCC! There are many other things happening, so be sure to check out our Facebook page for the latest news!!





Pinwheels for Peace

May 2022, Page 25

This fall, Alexandria Central Art students participated in an international art and literacy project known as "Pinwheels for Peace." Students placed pinwheels with messages of peace in front of the school building.





The music department was able to have some limited seating and outdoor concerts this year.

All Together Now featuring Select Choir Students



Elementary Christmas Concerts



PreK & Kindergarten



Grade 1





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Grade 3



Grade 4



Grade 5 & 6 Chorus



Grade 5 & 6 Recorder

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Alexandria Bay Tree Lighting Ceremony



Students Playing Music at Arrival Time



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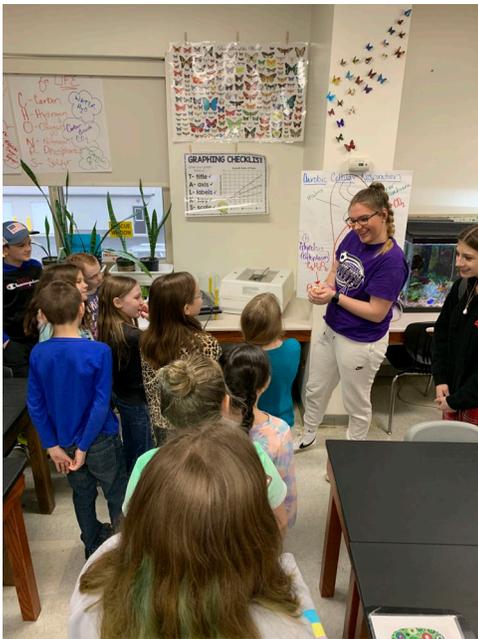
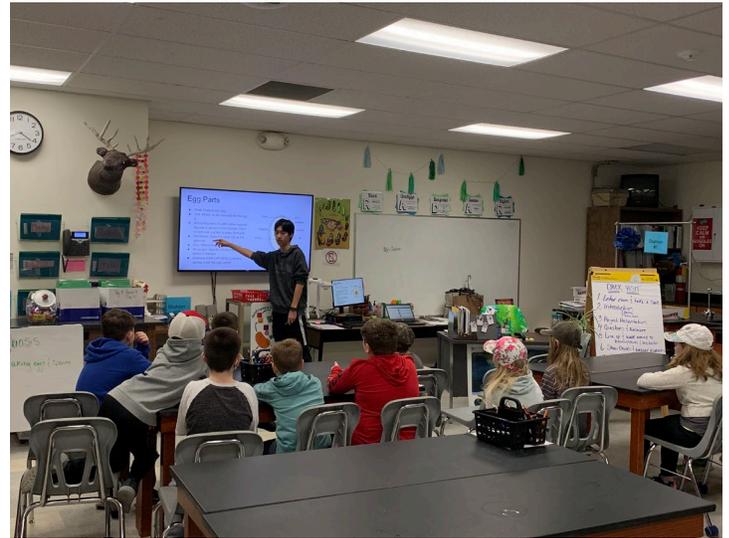
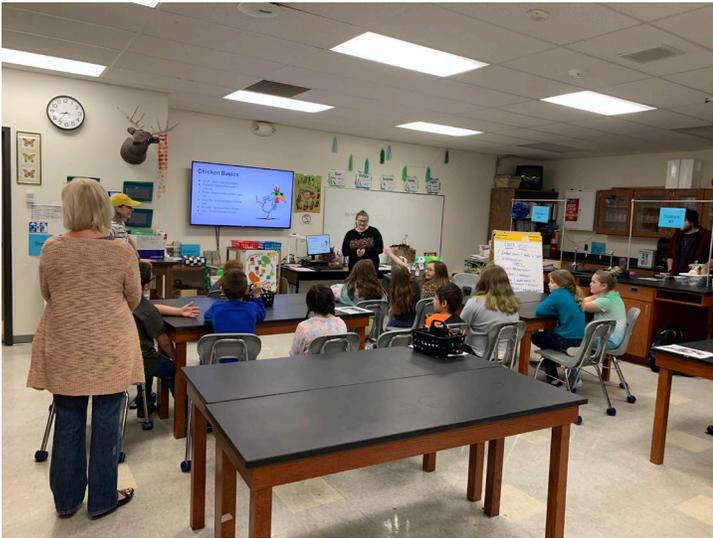


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Veterinarian Science

While the veterinarian science students learned about small animal care and management, we incubated chicken eggs. Through the incubation process, we learned about chick development and care. We invited Mrs. Heath's, Mrs. Hutchinson's, and Mrs. Sinkbeil's classes to come for a visit. The Vet. Sci. students researched and created a presentation for the 3rd grade visits. The 3rd graders were a fabulous audience, and afterwards they were able to visit the incubator, where chicks were still hatching, and visit the chicks that had already hatched!

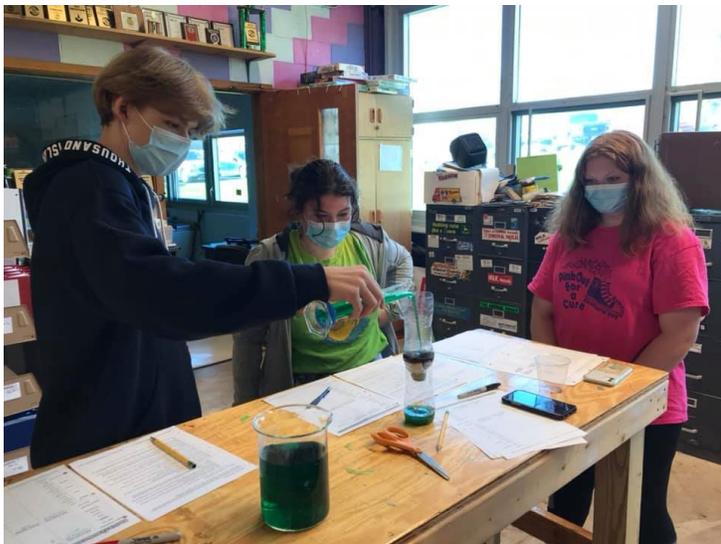




Ag Updates

May 2022, Page 30

The 8th grade Agriculture class has planted and monitored the growth of wheat grass that will be fed to Darwin, the Leopard Tortoise.



Natural Resources and Ecology students test how well soil filters water during a lab.



Agriculture power and technology students work on an experiment to demonstrate efficiency.





Living Environment

May 2022, Page 31

The Living Environment students worked with Save the River to aid in their research involving invasive and native mussels of the St. Lawrence River and its tributaries. Ms. Eggleston and Ms. Broughton, from Save the River, joined our class to introduce the organization and its goals, as well as the mussel research currently being conducted. We spent time working with specimens collected from the Grasse River. As a culmination of our work, we were able to get out on the St. Lawrence with Dark Island Tours and visit several tributaries similar to the Grasse River up in our neck of the woods on the St. Lawrence. We were also able to have a Zoom meeting with one of the NYS Biologists working with the research, Dr. Denise Mayer, where she was able to answer some of the inquiry questions the students had come up with during our research.

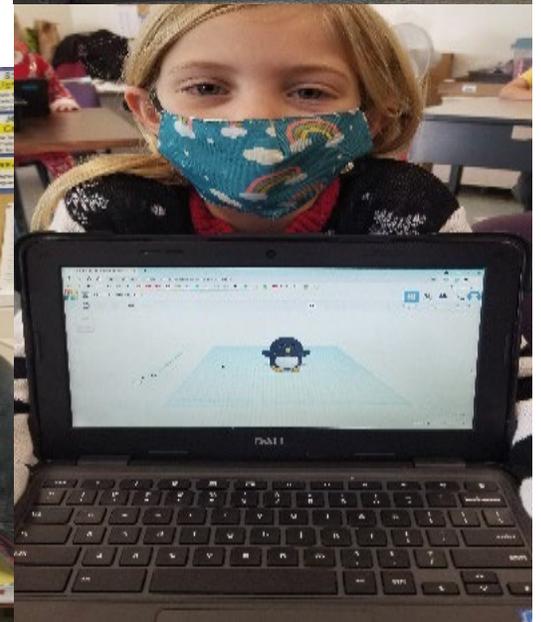




Science News from Mr. Hudon

Lots of exciting things are happening in Science this year! Students had the opportunity to try their skills at computer science this winter. Grades 3 through 6 each learned how to computer code using a program called Scratch. Students created a page of their choice, added a backdrop, uploaded a character, programmed their character to speak, fly, and spin all using computer code. Each week students learned a new code sequence to add to their page. Some of the creations were amazing! Computer coding has become an important skill in today's job market.

The second week of computer science students learned how to 3D print. 3D printing is the process of making physical objects from a three-dimension model by laying down many successive thin layers of material. The process begins on their Chromebook, using a program called TinkerCAD. Students at each grade level created a different Christmas ornament to 3D print. The design is created on a virtual platform then sent to the printer. Students had to measure, calculate, and solve problems to be successful. This was a lot of fun for the students. A big thank you to Mrs. Gionet for her help with both projects.

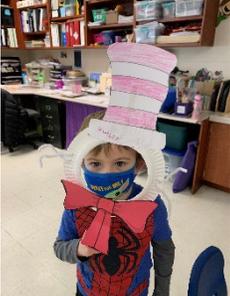
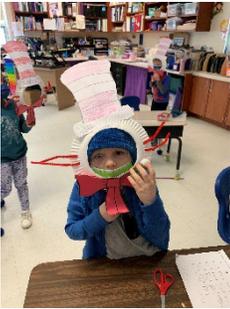




Kindergarten News

Here in Kindergarten we have FUN every day! We have also been lucky enough to celebrate the seasons and holidays in all sorts of ways. We dressed up for Halloween and got to make apple cider with Mr. Company, for example!

The Kindergarten Team





We have had the best year in 1st grade at ACS. We have learned about the human body, astronomy, animals and their habitats, and fairy tales. We had Friendsgiving, made Christmas cookies, played in the snow, and tried to catch Lucky the leprechaun. We absolutely love to learn in Room 133, especially when food is involved!

We are learning about writing an opinion.



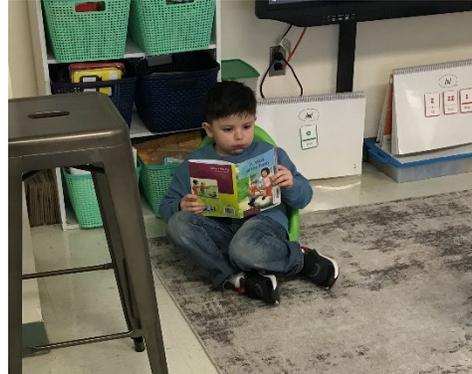
Are you team nacho cheese or team cool ranch?





Mrs. Ingerson's 1st Grade

Mrs. Ingerson's class used their STEM skills to create and construct Leprechaun traps. Unfortunately, no leprechauns were caught this year, but maybe better luck next year!



We have also been strengthening our reading stamina by practicing whenever we have a free moment.

The Watertown Wolves also came and guest read in our classroom.





2nd Grade News

May 2022, Page 36

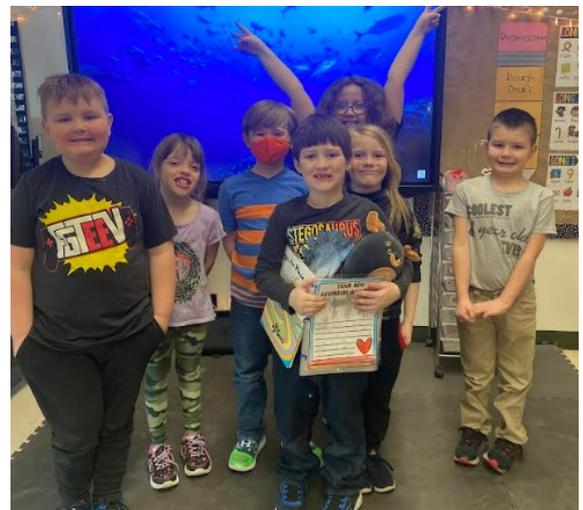
Second grade is having a blast this year. We have made many beautiful memories and plan to make many more this spring. On top of all the classroom learning we have accomplished, we have also been able to sneak in some fun. So far this year, we have enjoyed tubing at Dry Hill, ice skating at the rink, many Science Fridays, sledding fun at recess, along with many engaging and exciting classroom activities. With spring in full swing, we are excited to see how many more memories we can make.



Mrs. Putnam's class enjoying a few read alouds. One by a Wolves hockey player and the other from their classmate, Paul.



Mrs. Weldon's class enjoying the playground on a beautiful day.



Mrs. Forcione's class saying good-bye to a classmate that moved away.





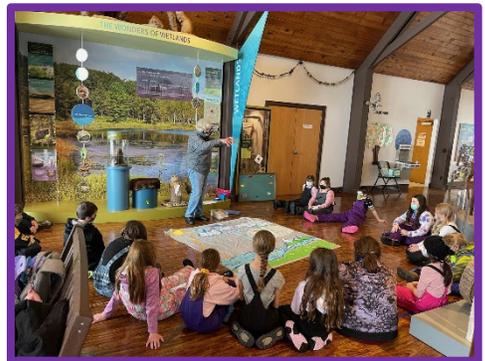
Third grade knows the best way to learn is to learn with your friends!!





4th Grade News

Fourth grade has had a blast this year. We have worked hard, but have also enjoyed some fun days outside of the classroom. We have enjoyed ice skating, taking a trip to the Minna Common Anthony Nature Center, sledding at Dry Hill, and will attend Farmer Boys Days at Stone Mills in June. The students have made some wonderful memories this year and we are excited to make some more.





5th Grade News

In February, the 5th grade’s winter field trip to Camp Wabasso was a great way to kick off the very first Iditarod Unit held since the 2018-2019 school year! Students participated in activities like making bird feeders from lard, granola, and birdseed. They learned about food groups and creating healthy, and clean, nutritious meals. Finally, students were able to get outdoors and snowshoe on part of the trail, with a campfire ending where they had freshly popped popcorn over the fire!



5th grade prepares for Arctic Day; their culminating Iditarod activity, with a presentation by Matt Jobson, and his sled dog in training, Jade.



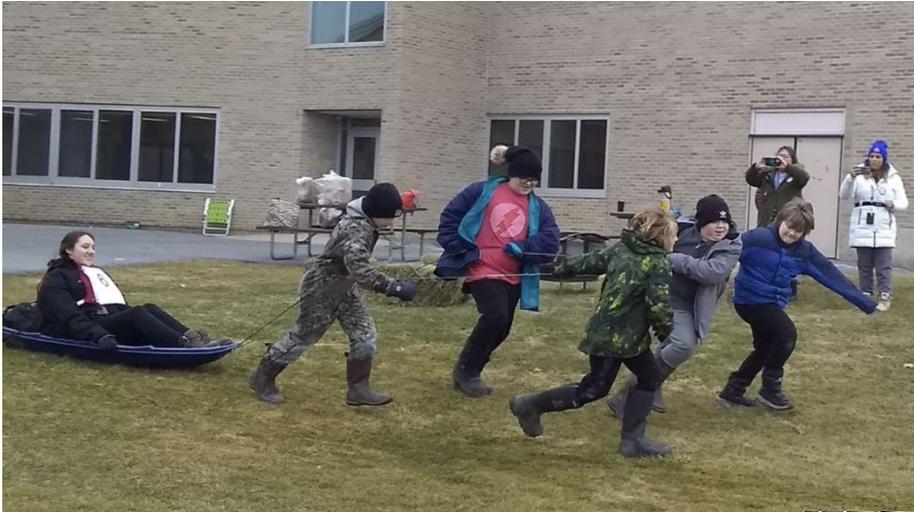
Arctic Day 2022! Fifth grade ended the Iditarod Unit with their own race! Six teams of students raced around the grounds of ACS having to complete questions in Math, ELA, SS, and Science at their respective checkpoints before moving to the next one. They also had additional checkpoints and activities, just like the mushers racing in the Iditarod! Students on each team all took turns as the team’s musher, and as a sled dog pulling the musher. The winning team was chosen based on points earned at checkpoints and activities with an emphasis on teamwork and respect. They ended the day with a banquet, awards ceremony, and movie.





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2022 Arctic Day Champions, earning 7 out of 8 Teamwork awards!



A huge thank you to Betty Compeau for joining us and leading another successful Iditarod Unit. Brian Hudon, for his part in Iditarod not only in the area of science, but for providing the hay, and campfire for our students. Finally, a thank you to our Administration and parents; we wouldn't have been able to put this on without your support!



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LOTE UPDATES

What were these teenage elves up to in Ms. Rondash's Food & Cultures class? Making gingerbread houses from scratch, of course! After learning the history of and previewing the recipe for the Lebkuchenhaus, the students put a week of effort and teamwork into baking, measuring, cutting, constructing, and decorating their creations. Which gingerbread house do you think looks the most festive?



On Monday, December 6th our Elementary students celebrated St. Nicholas Day. Mrs. Ascough's International Club students are learning about the St. Nicholas Day tradition in Europe and how children leave out a shoe for St. Nicholas to fill with candy, nuts, coins, fruit, etc. Typically, the shoe is left out much like a Christmas stocking on December 5th and the children find it filled the morning of the 6th. Elementary Students left shoes out over the weekend that were filled with goodies from the Secondary School's International Club. This fun event was enjoyed by the iClub students, as well as the Elementary students!





Here's what's happening!!!

The Booster Club has enjoyed seeing sports back in full swing! We were able to have concessions for the soccer and basketball seasons! We look forward to continuing the concession stand for the spring softball/baseball season. This year we have decided to amp up the school spirit by purchasing t-shirts for the Varsity soccer and the bowling teams, paying for personalization on warm-up jerseys for the JV and V basketball teams, and are in the planning stages for the spring sports' teams. For hockey, we paid for training camps with the Watertown Wolves and a pizza party. We continue to purchase banners for the seniors in each sport to be displayed around the school and on senior nights.

Here's how you can help!!!

- **TI Half Marathon:** The booster club is the benefactor of the TI Half Marathon. The marathon is set to take place June 10th and 11th this year. We need volunteers to help pass out water, guide runners on the route, cheer runners along, and more. This is a great opportunity for students to earn community service hours! Please visit the following website: (<https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/WellesleyIsland/ThousandIslandsHalfMarathon5K>) or contact Barb Edgar (315-778-3144) for more information.
- **Membership:** Become a member now and your membership will carry on through the 2022-2023 school year. Please complete the application on the next page and mail it in along with payment to the address listed on the application.
- **Volunteers:** The Boosters' community is at its best when we have volunteers to help run the many activities throughout the school year. Check out our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ACSSportsBooster/>) for volunteer opportunities or email acssportsboosterclub@gmail.com if you are interested in helping us out. Students and/or parents are welcome to volunteer. Student volunteer hours will go towards their community service graduation requirement. We will be rewarding volunteers each season with a random drawing as a thank you! Board members are excluded from the drawing.

ACS Sports Booster Club Scholarship!

We are excited to offer a \$500.00 scholarship to one senior athlete this academic year! Please email the ACS Sports Booster Club (acssportsboosterclub@gmail.com) or Michelle Mourino (mmourino@acsghosts.org) for more information or the application for the scholarship!



ACS Sports Booster Club

The club's mission is to "unite the local community in supporting the Alexandria Central School athletics department, while recognizing the importance that athletics play in student development and morale." We are an organization of parents, educators, and community members that believe sports can positively impact an athlete's learning and provide students with skills that can lead to success as an adult as well.

ACS athletes have long benefited from a strong commitment from the district, and the Booster Club's goals are to be a partner in this. We want to help fund new equipment and uniforms, upgrade facilities, assist with any expenses that may arise from costs associated with Division or State level participation, etc.

Become a member of the ACS Booster Club as a loved one of an athlete, or simply as an active community member who is dedicated to our school. As a member, you are eligible to vote on open board seats at the annual membership meeting and on business that comes in front of the club at regular meetings throughout the year.

Thank you for considering becoming a member and we can't wait to see you at a meeting or fundraising events!

Membership Levels (choose one):

Individual: \$10/year or \$100/Lifetime

Business: \$100/year

Members must be 18 years or older.

Membership year runs July 1st to June 30th. Dues for membership will be accepted until January 1st. Dues received after that date would be membership for the next year.

Keep the top portion, and return the bottom portion with your payment to: ACS Sports Booster Club PO Box 523 Alexandria Bay, NY 13607.

Name: _____

Date: _____ Membership Level: _____ Year _____ Lifetime _____ Business

Email: _____ Phone: _____

What ACS sports teams are you supporting? (list all) _____

What would you like to do to help? (check all that apply) _____ Concessions _____ Board Member

_____ Committee Member _____ Other: _____

Club Use Only:

Payment Type: _____ Payment Accepted By: _____

ACS Athletics



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School Budget Vote 22-23

Budget Vote

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 from 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Alexandria Central School, Room 260

